

REMARKS

Minor amendments have been made to the specification to correct reference numerals and grammatical inconsistencies. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-22 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 22 have been amended. Claim 23 is new. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Applicants respectfully request that action with respect to the Examiner's Provisional Double Patenting rejection in light of copending application 10/761,110 be held in abeyance until such rejection is the only rejection remaining in one of the applications.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaPointe et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,921) in view of Jackson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,365,836). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include clutch mechanism structure including a drive link operably coupled to said drive rod for rotation therewith, and a follower link journally supported from said drive rod for rotation thereabout. Since neither LaPointe et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,921), nor Jackson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,365,836) discloses such a clutch structure nor do they together teach such a clutch structure, Applicants

now believe claim 1 to be in condition for allowance. Likewise, due to their ultimate dependency from claim 1, claims 2-11 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 has also been amended. Applicants now claim, in part, "an actuation mechanism having a drive rod extending between and journally supported by said side frame members, such that said drive rod extends through drive motor." Since neither LaPointe et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,921), nor Jackson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,365,836) discloses such an actuation mechanism nor do they together teach such an actuation mechanism, Applicants now believe claim 22 to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 23 is new. The Applicants contend that neither LaPointe et al. nor Jackson et al. disclose nor together teach a drive rod and an operably coupled clutch mechanism as Applicants claim in new Claim 23. Therefore, Applicants also believe Claim 23 to be in condition for allowance.

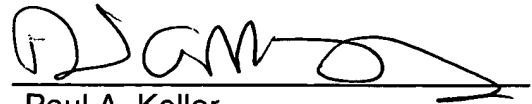
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt

and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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